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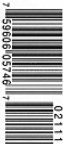
CLAREMONT • HAUN • MEEKS

NEW EXCALIBUR



DIRECT EDITION

\$2.99 US \$3.75 CAN



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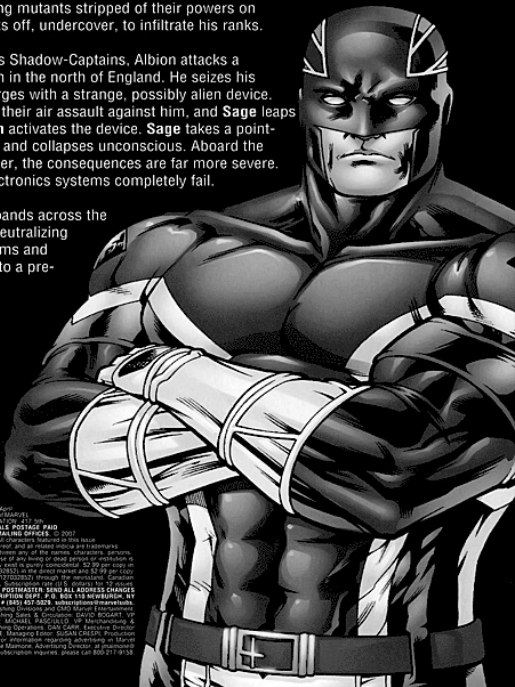
Previously in NEW EXCALIBUR:

Weeks ago, **Nocturne** was hammered by a stroke. Fortunately, its effects turned out to be limited, even though the recovery phase will keep her out of action for the foreseeable future.

While she embarks on her rehabilitation, the rest of the team continue their pursuit of the mysterious **Albion**, after learning that he is actively seeking recruits from among mutants stripped of their powers on "M-Day." **Sage** sets off, undercover, to infiltrate his ranks.

With the help of his Shadow-Captains, Albion attacks a security installation in the north of England. He seizes his objective and emerges with a strange, possibly alien device. As the RAF begins their air assault against him, and **Sage** leaps to stop him, **Albion** activates the device. **Sage** takes a point-blank hit of energy and collapses unconscious. Aboard the helicopters, however, the consequences are far more severe. The power and electronics systems completely fail.

The blast wave expands across the island of **Britain**, neutralizing all electronic systems and returning the land to a pre-industrial state.



NEW EXCALIBUR #259

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ENGLAND

IN THE MIDDLE OF
THE NIGHT, THE
LIGHTS WENT OUT.

THE PHONES
WENT DEAD.

AUTOMOBILE ENGINES
STOPPED, ELEVATORS,
BOILERS, ALL MANNER OF
GADGETS AND POWER
SOURCES--EVERYTHING.



is MINE!

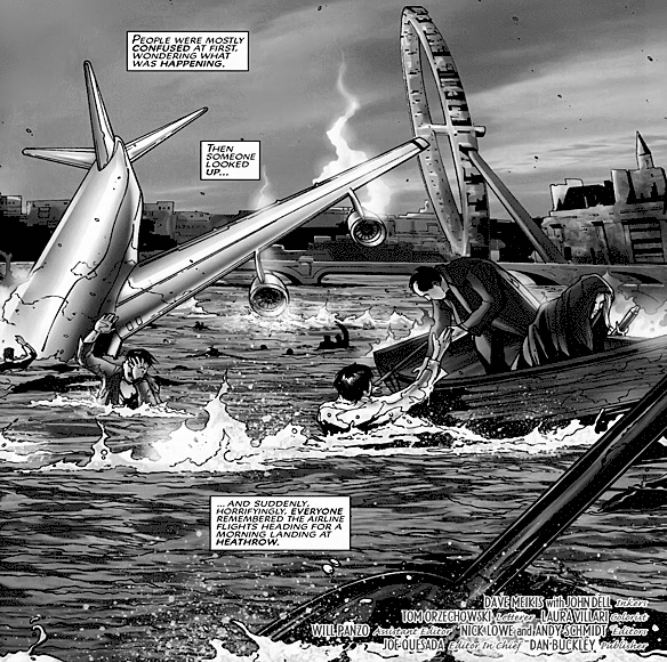
By Chris CLAREMONT & Jeremy HAUN



PEOPLE WERE MOSTLY
CONFUSED AT FIRST,
WONDERING WHAT
WAS HAPPENING.

THEN
SOMEONE
LOOKED
UP...

... AND SUDDENLY,
HORRIFYINGLY, EVERYONE
REMEMBERED THE AIRLINE
FLIGHTS HEADING FOR A
MORNING LANDING AT
HEATHROW.



DAVE MEIKIS with JOHN DELL
TOMORZEGHOWSKI Letterer LAURAVILLARI Colorist
WILL PANZO Assistant Editor NICK LOWE and ANDY SCHMIDT Editors
JOE QUESADA Editor in Chief DAN BUCKLEY Publisher





ENGINES
ARE DEAD.
NOTHING
WORKS.



HAUL ON THE STICK,
GIVE IT EVERYTHING
YOU'VE GOT!

C'MON,
PLANE, DON'T
DO THIS. PULL
UP, PULL UP,
PULL UP!



"OUR FATHER, WHO
ART IN HEAVEN,
HALLOWED BE THY
NAME..."

HOLD ONTO
ME, SWEETHEART.
CLOSE YOUR
EYES, DON'T BE
SCARED.

EVERYTHING'LL BE
OVER SOON.



WHAT'S
HAPPENING?!

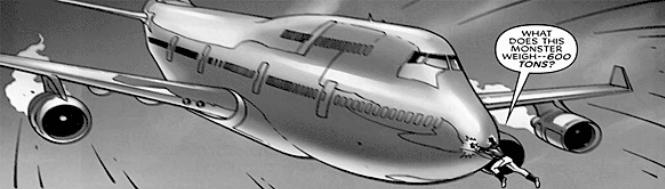
HAVE WE
CRASHED?!



THIS IS
CRAZY--ARE WE
STRAIGHTENING
OUT?

MANUAL
CONTROLS--
QUICK NOW--
START
PUMPING--

--WE'VE
GOT TO
LOWER THE
LANDING
GEAR!







THEY TRY
THEIR VERY
BEST.

BUT THERE
ARE JUST
TOO MANY
AIRCRAFT--



--TOO FEW
HEROES.

TIME TO GO,
PETAL--

--THERE'S
NOTHING
MORE WE
CAN DO
HERE.

WE CAN'T
JUST LEAVE
THESE PEOPLE.
WISDOM.



WE'RE NOT
HERE TO BE
NOBLE,
DAZZLER, OR
SCORE
POINTS.

WE'RE
HERE TO
WIN.



YOU DON'T
LIKE THE WAY
WE CHOOSE TO
DO IT, I DON'T
CARE.



EXCALIBUR'S JOB
IS TO TAKE DOWN
THE VILLAIN
RESPONSIBLE--

--AND MAKE
SURE HE
NEVER DOES
IT AGAIN.

D'YOU THINK
WE HAVE A
CHANCE?



THIS IS MY
HOME,
PETAL. THESE
ARE MY
PEOPLE--

--I
DON'T
INTEND
TO
LOSE.



SOMEWHAT
FURTHER
NORTH ...

--WE'RE UNDER
ATTACK!
LORD
ALBION,
LOOK
OUT--



WHERE ARE THE
HELICOPTERS--

--WHAT
HAPPENED
TO ALL THE
PLANES?



THE MORE
IMPORTANT
QUESTION IS,
WHY DID YOU
ATTACK
HIM?



WHAT
ARE YOU
TALKING
ABOUT?

I WAS
TRYING TO
PROTECT
HIM.



AS WELL YOU
SHOULD, HAVING
SWORN YOURSELF
TO MY SERVICE.

MY INSTINCT
IS TO
TRUST
YOU.



AS MUCH
AS I TRUST
ANYONE.





AND AS THIS ISLAND LEADS, SO SHALL THE REST OF THE WORLD FOLLOW.



I HAVE A CRITICAL MISSION FOR YOU, LIONHEART.

OUR LAST INTELLIGENCE PLACES THE QUEEN AND HER FAMILY IN SCOTLAND, AT BALMORAL.



SHE MUST EITHER STAND BY MY SIDE...

...OR HER REIGN-- AND HER FAMILY-- ARE AT AN END.



IS THAT A PROBLEM?

WHAT ABOUT YOU?

I'M OFF TO LONDON, TO SECURE THE CAPITAL AND THE GOVERNMENT...



...AS WELL AS ANY SUPER HEROES FOOLISH ENOUGH TO OPPOSE ME.



BE QUICK, MY LIONHEART.

WE HAVE MUCH TO DO...



...AND I WANT YOU BY MY SIDE.



BUSY BOY, IT SEEMS ALBION'S BUILT HIMSELF AN ARMY.

HE'S HEADING SOUTH--I ASSUME, TO LONDON.



ALBION'S THOUGHTS ARE BLOCKED.

THE OTHERS AREN'T YET SO SKILLED. THEIR MINDS ARE MORE POROUS.

THE MAIN FORCE IS BOUND FOR LONDON. A SECOND, LED BY LIONHEART, IS GOING NORTH TO SEIZE THE QUEEN.



YOU SEE, CAPTAIN--TELEPATHY HAS ITS USES.

WE WERE SLAVES. OUR MASTER MADE US ENEMIES.

NOW THAT HE IS NO MORE, WE CAN START ANEW.



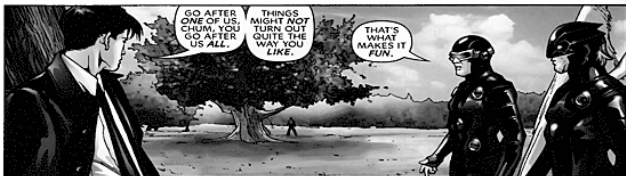
IT SEEMS, CAPTAIN, THE MOOD HERE IS A BIT HOSTILE.

ARE YOU REALLY SURPRISED?

YOU KILLED ME, YOU WITCH!

AND YOU RECOVERED--

--WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?





GOT SOME
PLANS,
SQUIRE, YOU
AN' YOUR
MATE?

GOIN'
SOMEWHERE,
MAYBE?

IS THAT
ANY
BUSINESS
OF
YOURS?



YOUR LADY JUST
PROPOSED AN
ALLIANCE. WE
ACCEPTED.

BUT YOU
SEEM T' BE
WORKIN' AT
CROSS-
PURPOSES.

THE KEY TO
VICTORY IS
ALBION.

REMOVE
HIM FROM THE
BOARD, THE
REST WILL
FALL.



LEMME
GUESS,
YOU HAVE
A PLAN.

HE
HAD OUR
MASTER
KILLED. I
WILL KILL
HIM.

EASY
AS THAT,
IS IT?



ALL
BY YOUR-
SELF?



WANT SOME
COMPANY?

WHY?



I'M NOT A
SUPER HERO,
MATE, I'M AN
AGENT OF THE
CROWN.

WE PLAY
BY DIFFERENT
RULES.

BRIAN ISN'T
FOND OF KILLING.
WITH ME, IT'S PART
OF THE JOB.



AFTER
WE FINISH
WHAT JEANNIE
AND YOUR
CAPTAIN HAVE
IN MIND, WE'LL
TAKE A LITTLE
FIELD TRIP.



WANT THE LATEST?

NOT REALLY.

JEAN CAUGHT A PSYCHIC CLIP FROM SOME CAPTAINS HEADIN' FOR BALMORAL.

BRIAN FIGURES ALBION'S MAKING A PLAY FOR THE ROYALS. THAT'S WHERE WE'RE GOIN' NEXT.

HOORAY FOR THEM.



WE'RE S'POSED TA STAY LOOSE TIL THEY GET BACK.

TROUBLE IS, WE SEEM TO HAVE LOST CYKE, ANGEL AN' WISDOM.

LIKE I CARE?



GIMME A BREAK, ALLI. YOU KNOW THIS IS THE RIGHT PLAY.



BUT YOU'RE STILL ANGRY.

THOSE PEOPLE KILLED ME, CAIN.



ONLY NOW, WE'RE S'POSED TO TREAT 'EM LIKE BUDDIES!



AIN'T LIKE I DON'T HAVE A PAST, KIDDO.

FACT IS, WE NEED 'EM.



IN MY HEAD, CAIN, I KNOW THAT.

BUT IN MY HEART, IT HURTS LIKE HELL.

THEY KILLED ME. I WANT TO KILL THEM BACK.



CHANCES ARE, ALLI, YOU'LL GET YOUR CHANCE.

BUT FIRST, WE GOTTA SAVE THE WORLD.

THE ROYAL PALACE--
BALMORAL, SCOTLAND..





MEANWHILE,
OUTSIDE...



WHACK!



I'M IMPRESSED.
I DON'T KNOW
HOW YOU GOT
PAST MY
DEFENCES.

BUT DID
YOU REALLY
THINK I COULD
BE FOOLED SO
EASILY?



TRUST ME, I
WON'T LET YOU HAVE
ANOTHER CHANCE--
GASP!?!



IS THIS
TRULY WHAT
YOU WANT,
KELSEY?



IS THIS
WHY
YOU TOOK THE
SWORD AND
BECAME
LIONHEART?

I THOUGHT
YOUR INTENT WAS
TO SAVE YOUR
CHILDREN--

--NOT
TURN THEM
INTO ALBION'S
SLAVES.



LONDON--
--THE HOUSES OF
PARLIAMENT--

YOUR
NATION HAS
CHANGED--

--AS YOUR
WORLD WILL
CHANGE--

--I AM THE
INSTRUMENT
OF THAT
CHANGE--

THE
EMBODIMENT
OF YOUR
FUTURE.



STAND WITH
ME AND I WILL
LEAD YOU TO
GLORY--

--NOT SIMPLY HERE BUT
TO EVERY CORNER OF THE
OMNIVERSE.



STAND AGAINST ME,
AND I PROMISE YOU A
FUTURE THAT WILL
BE SHORT...

...YOUR LIVES
AND FATE QUICKLY
FORGOTTEN.



AT LEAST WE
KNOW SHE'S
ALIVE. SHE'S
OKAY.

I KNOW SHE'S
PLAYING A PART--
SO WHY DO I HAVE
THIS FEELING THAT
SOMETHING'S
WRONG?

"WHAT'S
HAPPENING--
WHAT'S SHE
DOING?!"

ALL
TECHNOLOGY
ON THIS ISLAND
HAS BEEN
NEUTRALIZED.

IT IS YOUR
RESPONSIBILITY TO
MAINTAIN PUBLIC
ORDER.

NICE OF
ALBION TO
MAKE HIMSELF
SUCH AN EASY
TARGET.

SURE YOU
CAN DO THIS,
SUMMERS?

EASILY,
WISDOM.

THIS OPTIC
BLAST WILL
PUNCH A
HOLE RIGHT
THROUGH HIS
HEART.

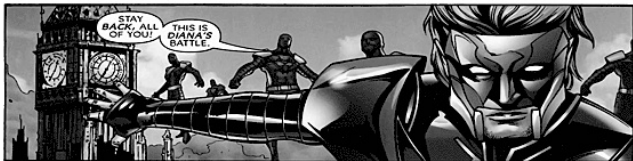
ZARK!

SOMEONE'S
BLOCKED
YOUR SHOT!

MY
GOD--
IT'S
SAGE!

ON BOTH SIDES OF THE
THAMES, ON THE BRIDGE
CONNECTING THE BANKS...

CROWD REACTION
IS AS IMMEDIATE
AS IT IS PRIMAL.







Megan



**THE
MINUTEMEN**

Scans by ThePyre